

Pros and Cons of Housemates

Good Things about Having a Housemate



It might be the only way to afford to live in an apartment

You can split the cost of rent and utilities

You can share chores like cleaning

A housemate can be a support and companion

Most people live with other people – it's a "normal" thing to do

A housemate may have "stuff" that you don't have and you may have "stuff" that he/she doesn't have.

Downsides of Having a Housemate

You have to rely on someone else for their share of the costs like rent and utilities

You may not like how they do things, their "style", behavior, or attitudes

Their problems can become your problems

You may not like their friends

You have less privacy because you have to share common areas such as kitchen and living room

You have to figure out how to deal with disputes and differences.

What to Look for in a Housemate

Someone you like

Someone you trust and feel safe with

Someone who keeps agreements

Someone who pays their share of the bills

Someone with the same tolerance for "clean" and "dirty" that you have

Someone who will not let their friends or family take advantage of the place

Do you want someone who smokes? Is clean and sober? Likes to party?

What to Avoid in a Housemate

Someone who smokes if you don't. Someone who doesn't smoke if you do

A "night person" if you are a "day person"

Someone who plays music you cannot stand

Someone who drinks or drugs, especially if you are clean and sober

Someone who steals or lies or has reputation for lots of problems

Someone who frightens or worries you

Has allergies to animals if you want to get a pet (Has pets if you have allergies)

Should You Have a Live-in Attendant?

The same pros and cons above apply to a live-in attendant, but there are additional issues to consider:

Organizing finances: rent in exchange for services? Payment applied to rent?

Expectations for working and non-working time

Expectations for social interactions: Is all housemate social time also attendant work time?

Negotiating and contracting so that neither person feels "taken advantage of"

Role confusion and boundaries: when are you an employer, a housemate, a friend?

Housemate problems can affect sense of safety, attendant care availability and quality